



PROJECT CLOSING SUMMARY

“WOMEN, FAMILIES, CAREERS – A CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM IN THE V4 SPIRIT”

The Project is co- financed by the Governments of Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia through Visegrad Grants from International Visegrad Fund.

The mission of the fund is to advance ideas for sustainable regional cooperation in Central Europe.

www.visegradfund.org

Co-sponsor: Hungarian Ministry of Human Capacities

The Association for Women’s Career Development in Hungary (AWCDH) has implemented the Project supported by the Visegrad Fund and the Hungarian Ministry of Human Capacities between 17 February and 31 October 2020.

Within the Project the AWCDH has been working together with the members of the V4 Civil Partnership, the Business & Professional Women CR z.s., from the Czech Republic, the Slovak Business Agency and the Związek Dużych Rodzin "Trzy Plus" from Poland and with Hungarian partner organizations, the National Association of Large Families – NOE, the Hungarian Red Cross, and the Women’s Entrepreneurial Club of Győr-Moson-Sopron County Chamber of Commerce. We have contributed to achieve our goals together based on our country specific knowledge and networks.

Within the Project the International Conference titled “Women, Families, Careers – a Civil Society Forum in the V4 Spirit” was organized in the Rubin Wellness & Conference Hotel in Budapest on 28 August 2020 in hybrid form.

Due to covid distancing rules we could welcome 60 guests in person and further 100 people followed the event online in Hungarian and English language from Hungary and 10 countries from all over the world.

The main patron of the conference was *Mrs. Katalin Novák*, Hungarian Minister of State for Family and Youth Affairs of the Ministry of Human Capacities. (At present Hungarian Minister for Family Affairs). *Dr. Attila Beneda*, Deputy State Secretary for Family Affairs made the opening address on behalf of the Ministry of Human Resources.

On the invitation of our Czech partner, the Czech Ambassador, *HE Mr. Tibor Bial* in his closing remarks emphasized the impact, actuality and significance that the conference could have in furthering cooperation between the Visegrad countries.

At this Conference we launched a Forum as a V4 Civil Society initiative to help promote women’s employment. The emphasis was on the balance between work and private/family life, with special regard to the values of our region and its sustainability.

As the main goal of the Project the results of the research based on the panel discussions of the conference and the electronic survey conducted between 24 August and 15 September 2020 have been presented in the Research Study including Recommendations for decision makers and stakeholders in our four countries. The research has shown that V4 countries think similarly. Therefore, support for families is being vigorously pursued because the goal is to address demographic challenges, to develop women’s employment, and to improve the balance between family and work.

(The research study can be downloaded at: <https://visegradwomen.net/page/survey>)

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In accordance with our plan, we also presented the project at the European Union and UN level, which took place at the CSW65 (New York) NGO forum. Our organization in Consultative NGO status with the UN Economic and Social Council organized a virtual parallel event on March 16, 2021, where for the first time there was an opportunity to present a “Visegrad Women’s Initiative” at the most important UN event for women. (The presentations incl. the “Research on Women’s Employment, the Family and Work Balance in the Visegrad Countries” are available on our *Hungarian Women at CSW65* YouTube channel.)

In the name of our V4 Partnership, we would like to thank our Sponsors. Partners and Friends who helped us in the implementation of the “Women, Families, Careers – A Civil Society Forum in the V4 Spirit” Project in our countries.

Further information:

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